

Figure 5, the heating arrangement heats the entire surface of the card whereby the heat can escape at the edges of the card. This reference does not give the slightest suggestion for solving the problem addressed by the presently claimed invention, which is to provide and insure a uniform heating over the entire surface of the laminate. In the teachings of the German reference, the heating arrangements used for heating the card has a heat loss at the edges of the card.

The reference teaches a laminator insert that serves the purpose of positioning the card to be laminated. This insert also serves as a frame for the inserted card. The insert also assures that both during the lamination process and after the lamination process, the outer dimension of the card is maintained while also maintaining the desired flat, smooth edges. The reference describes it as detrimental that due to the heating during the lamination process, the molecular structure of the card is so changed that the card is structurally degraded and in particular causes a melting of the card so that during the lamination process the card dimensions change.

The object of DE-9218985 is to provide the card with a protective layer which avoids the above mentioned problems during the lamination process. This is accomplished by the card frame of the reference. Thus, this reference does not provide any suggestion for method for producing a card-shaped information carrier as recited in independent claim 12, as the Examiner acknowledges in the sentences bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action.

The Examiner cites Okada et al. as teaching a frame. Reference numeral 4 of Okada, et al., which the Examiner indicates as being a frame, is nothing more than a restraining mold. Okada et al. do not teach that this restraining mold in any way effects the heat flow and in particular reflects the heat or concentrates heat back or that the mold should in any way have non-heat conducting characteristics, as in the presently claimed invention.

The patent to Morse discloses a heat shielded press. Applicant respectfully submits that this reference adds nothing to the teachings of the previously discussed references since both the elements 14 and 15 are at a fixed distance from the heating elements 16, 17 so that a reflection or concentration back of heat is not possible. It is also worth noting that the inner mass of both elements 14 and 15 does not correspond to the outer masses of the pressing portions of the press. Thus, one must question whether the Morse press can even be used for producing cards.

The patent to Day discloses a molding press which the Examiner asserts teaches a heat reflecting frame. At the outside Applicant questions whether the molding press of Day is even suitable for use in producing cards. However, even if it is suitable for producing cards, the reflectors 17 of Day do not enclose a peripheral, narrow, outer boundary region of an inserted template, as in the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner combined the four references mentioned above in determining that claims 12 and 13 are patentable over such combination. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation provided in the teachings of these many references for making the combination argued by the Examiner. The only possible suggestion for making such a combination would be from hindsight reconstruction of the invention based upon the teachings of the present application itself. Of course, such hindsight reconstruction is impermissible. There is nothing in the teachings of these references which suggests picking and choosing various features of each of the references to arrive at the presently claimed invention. There is no teaching or suggestion by the references for concentrating heat back onto the laminate of the card, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over a combination of the above discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner once again rejected claims 14 and 22 over Okada, XP-002128554, Honda and Morse, however, in the present rejection he added yet another reference, namely, the patent to Day, which was discussed above. There is no teaching or suggestion made by these references for a peripheral frame made of a material which is substantially non-heat conducting, reflects heat or concentrates heat back onto an inserted laminate, as in the presently claimed invention. The only way one could possibly find such teaching in this combination of references is by impermissible hindsight reconstruction using the present application as a guide. Applicant additionally points out that the large number of references required by the Examiner for finding all of the features recited in the presently claimed invention helps indicate that the combination of these features is not obvious as the Examiner urges. The combination of such a large number

of references is believed to only be evident after having the knowledge provided by the present application.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 14 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over a combination of the above discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

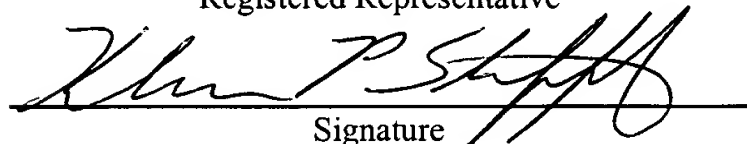
As for the rejection of claims 17-20 and 23-24, the additional reference to Vogt has also be considered. Since this reference is not believed to provide any additional teachings which might lead to the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is also overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 6, 2004:

Klaus P. Stoffel

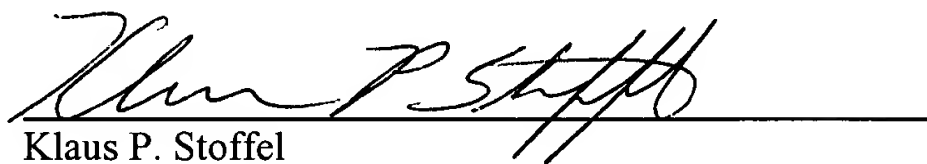
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature

April 6, 2004

Date of Signature

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